



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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From: WisDOT Bureau of Transit and Local Roads
Program Manager – Michael Erickson

To: County Highway Commissioners, City and Village Officials, Town Chairs

SUBJECT: 2004 Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program

Wisconsin State Statute §85.027 recently created the Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program (TSMEGP), to be administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The purpose of the program is to provide funds to local units of government for the installation of traffic signing and marking enhancements, with the intent of improving visibility to assist elderly drivers and pedestrians. This project solicitation will be used to provide approximately \$2.2 million in state funding in 2004, and to develop a list of contingency projects for future consideration if additional funding becomes available in FY 2005.

As public agencies with taxing authority that can guarantee matching funds, all Wisconsin counties, cities, villages, and towns are eligible to be project sponsors under this program. The program can pay up to 75% of total eligible project costs, with the local government contributing matching funds equal to at least 25% of the total eligible project costs to the limit of the award.

The TSMEGP is a reimbursement program. Local governments are required to initially finance 100% of project costs prior to seeking reimbursement. All projects under this program are locally let. While it is expected that many of these projects will be let to contract, it may be possible for the local government to perform the work, provided it has the necessary resources and/or agreements in place to do so. Once the improvement is completed and the contractor(s) paid (if applicable), the local government can request reimbursement from WisDOT.

The information packet includes program materials and an application form. The overview describes program funding information and eligibility requirements, application procedures, and the evaluation process used to determine program awards. The cover sheet and application form explain all required information. A copy of the enabling state statute has also been included.

Please review all materials carefully before applying – incomplete or ineligible applications will not be considered for funding.

Program Timeline:

Friday, April 16, 2004	WisDOT informs local governments about the program and provides application materials.
Postmarked no later than Friday, June 4, 2004	Applications due to WisDOT program manager.
Late June-Early July, 2004	WisDOT selection panel reviews and recommends program of projects for approval.
July 2004	WisDOT Secretary approves projects.
August 1, 2004	WisDOT announces approved program and notifies local governments. Locals must receive a signed agreement from WisDOT <u>prior</u> to incurring eligible costs, or letting a project to contract.

Applications, including a project map, must be postmarked no later than Friday, June 4, 2004. However, communities are encouraged to submit all information as early as possible prior the application deadline.

If you have any questions concerning the application process, please contact:

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Additional information about this and other WisDOT programs for local governments can be found on our Web site: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/index.htm>